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Population Estimates and Projections

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PROJECTIONS OF THE POPULATION OF VOTING AGE FOR STATES: NOVEMBER 1972

This report presents projections of the population of voting age for States by race and broad age groups for the presidential election of November 1972.¹ Also included are estimates of the proportion casting votes for President or Congress in 1968 and 1970 election years. Appendix tables show current residence requirements and dates of Presidential and Congressional primaries.

As a result of the ratification of the 26th amendment to the United States Constitution, the voting age population in November 1972 will include all persons 18 years old and over. The tables in this report relate to persons 18 years old and over in all States and the District of Columbia, including members of the Armed Forces stationed in each State. They exclude overseas Armed Forces and civilian employees and their dependents who would be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in their home State.

In the 1970 general election, the voting-age population included persons 21 years old and over except in the States of Georgia and Kentucky (18 years old and over), Alaska (19 years old and over) and Hawaii (20 years old and over).

Since 1968, the date of the last presidential election, the population of voting-age showed a net increase of 19.4 million, reaching a total of

140 million persons in November 1972. This represents a 16.1 percent increase in the voting-age population during the 4-year period. This unusually large increase in the voting-age population came about by the addition of nearly 11 million new potential voters as a result of lowering the voting age requirement to age 18 and by the large number of persons reaching their majority since the 1968 election. For the upcoming election, a record number of persons--25 million--will be old enough to vote for President for the first time.

Approximately two-thirds of the total resident population is of voting age. Forty-six percent of these will be 45 years old and over (table 1).

Of all persons of voting age in November 1972, 124 million will be white and 14 million will be black. The black voting-age population, which will comprise 10 percent of the total electorate, will be somewhat younger than the white population of voting age. Some 77 percent of the former will be over 25, compared with 82 percent of the white population. Blacks will be 8 percent or less of the voting-age population in the North and West, but more than double this percentage in the South (table A).

¹The figures for November 1972 contained in this report are not intended to meet the purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, which requires estimates of the voting age population in the year preceding an election. Estimates for 1971 under the provisions of that law will be published in the Federal Register in April 1972 and such later dates as necessary.

Table A. Negro Population as a Percent of the Voting-Age Population in the United States and Regions, by Age: November 1972

Age	United States	North-east	North-Central	South	West
18 years and over..	10.0	8.5	7.6	16.4	4.6
Under 25 years.....	13.6	11.4	10.1	22.3	6.1
25 to 44 years.....	10.6	10.5	8.4	15.9	5.1
45 to 64 years.....	8.9	7.0	6.7	15.4	4.0
65 years and over.....	7.9	5.1	5.3	15.2	2.8

Nearly 61 percent or 73 million persons of voting age cast votes for Presidential electors in the November 1968 election and 55 percent cast votes for U.S. Representatives (table 3). If the same percent cast votes for President in 1972 as in 1968 (and those under 21 participate, on the average, the same as those 21 and over), about 85 million voters would be expected to go to the polls this November.

Participation in voting for presidential candidates has been traditionally greater than in voting for U.S. Representatives. In 1968, as in earlier presidential election years, the proportion of the population of voting age casting votes for President was higher than the proportion casting votes for U.S. Representatives.²

Voting for Congress in nonpresidential elections has been consistently much lighter than for

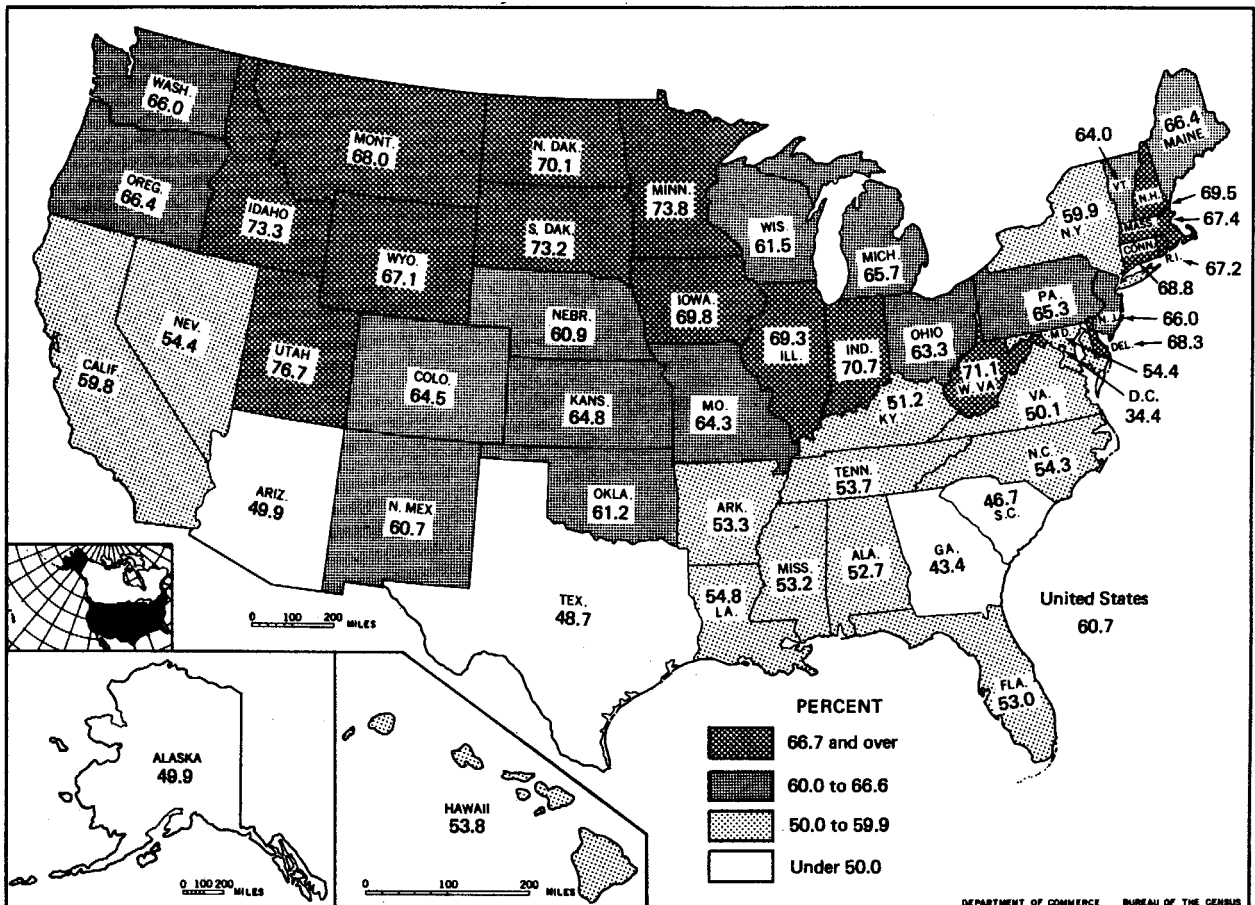
presidential years. In 1970, a nonpresidential election year, 44 percent of the voting-age population cast votes for Representatives--10 percentage points lower than in the 1968 presidential year.

Voter participation in the 1968 presidential election varied widely by region and State (table 3). In five States--Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, South Carolina, and Texas--and the District of Columbia, less than half the voting-age population voted (see map). Seven States on the other hand, had more than 70 percent voting, with Utah highest at 77 percent. In the South 52 percent of the voting-age population voted,³ compared with 61 percent in the West, 64 percent in the Northeast and 67 percent in the North Central region. Since 1960, however, the level of voter participation has declined nationally and in each region outside the

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 1971 (92nd Annual Edition) p. 364.

³ By comparison the Current Population Survey shows 60 percent of the civilian noninstitutional population in the South reported they had voted in the 1968 election. See Series P-20, No. 192.

Percentage of Voting-Age Population Voting in 1968 Presidential Election



South, while the proportion voting in the South has risen substantially.

California has the largest voting-age population (13.9 million), followed by New York (12.8 million), Pennsylvania (8.2 million), Texas (7.7 million), Illinois (7.5 million), and Ohio (7.2 million). The State with the smallest voting-age population is Alaska (200,000).

The population of voting age includes a considerable number of persons who meet the age requirement but cannot register to vote. Among these persons are aliens. About 2.7 million persons were registered under the requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Act with the Immigration and Naturalization Service in January 1971. The majority of these were residents of the United States and of voting age. Some others are not permitted to vote because they have been committed to prisons, mental hospitals, and other institutions. Among citizens of voting age, many are unable to vote because they have not satisfied State requirements as to length of residence in their State, county, or election precinct.⁴

It is not possible at this time to prepare satisfactory estimates of the number of persons in most of the categories of persons ineligible to vote. Hence, estimates of the number of persons who will be actually eligible to vote in the 1972 election are not offered here.⁵

In 1970 there were overseas approximately 1,024,000 members of the Armed Forces and 195,000 civilians and dependents of Armed Forces or civilian employees of voting age who are citizens of the United States, many of whom are eligible to vote in their home States. An estimate of the number of such persons in November 1972 is

⁴The Voting Rights Act Amendment of 1970 eliminated the residency requirement as a precondition to voting for President and Vice President of the United States. Further, many States have greatly liberalized their residency requirements for other national, State and local officials. Currently, 25 of the States require a residence in the State of one year; Minnesota requires 30 days and the remaining States require from 3 to 6 months--See appendix table A-1.

⁵For a review of estimates of the population disqualified from voting from one or another of the above conditions in 1968, see Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 406. A more detailed discussion of this "Ineligible" population in the 1964 election is contained in Meyer Zitter and Donald E. Starsinic, "Estimates of Eligible Voters in Small Areas: Some First Approximations," American Statistical Association: Proceedings of the Social Statistics Section, 1966.

not available. Between the census and December 1971, the overseas Armed Forces have declined by more than 300,000.

METHODOLOGY

The projections of the population of voting age by State for November 1972 by age and race were based on the 1970 census published in 1970 Census of Population, PC(1)-B, and provisional July 1971 estimates of the total resident population of States published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 468. The 1971 State totals were extended to November 1972 by linear extrapolation using the estimated growth rate between 1967 and 1971 and then used as overall controls for the voting-age population.

In developing estimates by age and race, each State's share of the national population by age and race on April 1970 was projected to November 1972 and then adjusted to independent projections of the national population by age and race. As a final step, the estimates were so adjusted that the sum of the estimates by age and race for each State equaled the estimate of the total resident population of voting age for that State.

The estimates of the population of voting age for States for November 1968 and 1970 were based on intercensal estimates of the total resident population published in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 460. These estimates, were derived first by developing postcensal estimates of States based on the 1960 census counts; data on births, deaths, and net migration; estimates of net movement of civilians into the Armed Forces between April 1960 and the estimate date; and the number of Armed Forces stationed in each State on the estimate date. These initial estimates were then adjusted to bring them in line with the results of the 1970 census.⁶ Then the proportion of each State which was 21 years old or over (18 and over in Kentucky and Georgia; 20 and over in Hawaii and 19 and over in Alaska) in the two consecutive censuses was derived. Linear interpolation and extrapolation between the 1960 and 1970 censuses provided an estimate for each State for 1968 and 1970. These proportions were then applied to the appropriate annual estimates of the total population for States to yield estimates of the voting-age population. As a final step, these estimates were adjusted to add to an independent estimate of the voting-age population for the United States as a whole.

⁶A more detailed description of the procedure for developing the intercensal estimates of the total population by State is given in the text of Series P-25, No. 460.

RELATED REPORTS

The estimates of the voting-age population for November 1972 are consistent with estimates of the population of States for July 1971 published in Series P-25, No. 468 and with the 1970 census population of voting age for States published in 1970 Census of Population in Series PC(S1)-3. The latter report shows the number of persons of voting age by race, age, and sex, median age of the voting-age population, percent black, percent male, and percent 65 years old and over in April 1970 for regions, divisions, and States.

Estimates of the voting-age population for November 1972 for limited age groups together with detailed information on the characteristics

of young potential voters (18 to 24) are published in Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 230.

Data on reported voter participation and registration of the population of voting age, by race and sex for the United States and regions in the November 1970 Congressional election are contained in Series P-20, No. 228.

ROUNDING OF ESTIMATES

The estimates presented in the tables of this report have been rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals which are independently rounded. The percentages are based on unrounded numbers.